

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02881 232305Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 231050Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1008

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JIDDA 2881

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SA, US, PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: SAUDI ALARM AT ISRAELI AIR INCURSIONS

REF JIDDA 2485

1. PRINCE SAUD BIN FAISAL, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ASKED TO SEE ME THIS AFTERNOON (1200 GMT APRIL 23) ON "INSTRUCTIONS FROM KING KHALID AND CROWN PRINCE FAHD."

2. HE SAID ON APRIL 21 ISRAELI PLANES FLEW OVER SAUDI TERRITORY THREE TIMES: THE FIRST AN INCURSION OF ONE PLANE IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE COUNTRY; THE SECOND WAS TWO PLANES WHICH CAME TO WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF TABUK WITH THEIR SONIC BOOMS HEARD CLEARLY IN THE TOWN; THE THIRD WAS A HIGH FLYING GROUP OF FOUR PLANES WHICH IT WAS ASSUMED WERE PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE.

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3. SAUD SAID I WOULD BE SEEING THE CROWN PRINCE LATER

IN THE DAY, AND HE WOULD EXPRESS HIS OWN STRONG FEELINGS.
I SAW HIM AND HE DID.

4. FAHD SAID THESE INCURSIONS WOULD BE BAD AT ANY TIME.
NOW THEY WERE AN INTOLERABLY PROVOCATION. RECENT VISITORS
TO THE KINGDOM WHO HAD COME FROM ISRAEL--INCLUDING A PROM-
INENT AMERICAN MEMBER OF CONGRESS--HAD TOLD HIM THAT
ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAD STATED FRANKLY THAT IN THE NEXT
ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, ISRAEL INTENDED TO OCCUPY NORTHERN
SAUDI ARABIA.

5. FAHD REVIEWED THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SAUDI
ARABIA AND SAID HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD NOT RPT NOT WANT
TO JEOPARDIZE THEM ANY MORE THAN WOULD THE SAG. BUT ANY
ISRAELI MOVE AGAINST SAUDI TERRITORY WOULD MEAN "THE
LOSS IN A DAY OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE GAINED SINCE 1973."

6. HE SAID HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD INFORM ISRAEL THAT
ANY ATTACK ON SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE VIEWED AS AN ATTACK
ON THE UNITED STATES--IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE AN ATTACK ON
U.S. INTERESTS. AND HE ASKED URGENTLY (AS THE SAG
HAS NEVER RPT NEVER DONE BEFORE) THAT WE GET ISRAEL TO
STOP IMMEDIATELY ITS OVERFLIGHTS OF SAUDI TERRITORY.

7. FAHD SPOKE WITH AGITATED SPEED, UNUSUAL FOR HIM. HE
ASKED THE AMBASSADOR FOUR TIMES TO BE SURE "IMPRESS UPON
PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER THE GRAVITY
WITH WHICH THE SAG VIEWED ISRAEL'S SERIES OF PROVOCATIONS,
THE AERIAL INCURSIONS BEING ONLY THE LATEST ONES."
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